

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claim 14 have been amended, and new claim 20 has been added. Claims 1-20 are pending, with claims 1, 8, and 14 being independent. Claims 14-19 are under consideration as being directed to elected Invention III. New claim 20 is also directed to elected Invention III. Claims 1-7 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected Invention I, and claims 8-13 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected invention II. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

The specification has been amended to correct a spelling error.

The Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has now taken the position that Inventions I and II are related as process of making and product made, and considers Inventions I and II to be distinct inventions pursuant to MPEP 806.05(f) because "the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different method such as etching a metal sheet to form the mask." However, the product as claimed in claim 3 comprises a mask that is "formed by electro-forming." Thus, if the mask were instead made by "etching a metal sheet" as proposed by the Examiner, the resulting product would no longer be the product as claimed as required by MPEP 806.05(f). Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the requirement for restriction between Inventions I and II be withdrawn.

Drawings

In item 10 on page 1 (the Office Action Summary) of the Office Action of January 11, 2006, the Examiner did not indicate whether the drawings filed on November 21, 2003, are accepted or objected to, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner indicate this in the next Office Action.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 14-16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada et al. (Yamada) (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0019807) (referred to by the Examiner as '807) in view of Ito et al. (Ito) (U.S. Patent No. 5,652,067) (referred to the Examiner as '067). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 17-19 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada ('807) in view of Ito ('067) as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Kitazume (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0025406) (referred to by the Examiner as '406). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is submitted that Yamada ('807) does not disclose "a frame supporting one surface of the mask so that the mask is tensed, wherein the frame has a flat surface where the frame supports the one surface of the mask" or "a cover mask supporting an opposite surface of the mask, wherein the cover mask corresponds to the frame and has a flat surface where the cover mask supports the opposite surface of the mask" as now recited in independent claim 14, or the features of new claim 20 "wherein the frame is flat on at least a side of the frame that supports the one surface of the mask" and "wherein the cover mask is flat on at least a side of the cover mask that supports the opposite surface of the mask," because Fig. 5 of Yamada ('807) relied on by the Examiner shows that the "frame" 125 has a curved surface at some places where it contacts the "mask" 95, and the "cover mask" 126 has a curved surface where it contacts the "mask" 95.

Nor is it seen where the features of claims 14 and 20 discussed above are suggested by Yamada ('807), Ito ('067), and Kitazume ('406).

For at least the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 14-19 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada ('807), Ito ('067), and Kitazume ('406) be withdrawn, and that new claim 20 be allowed thereover.

Conclusion

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this paper, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

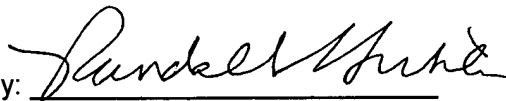
Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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